

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-03 NSC-10 SS-20 ACDA-19 OMB-01 EB-11

DRC-01 /162 W

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R 151209Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4767

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PIND, PFOR

SUBJECT: GREEK PRIME MINISTER'S INTERVIEW IN LONDON
TIMES

BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE - SUMMARY: THROUGHOUT
LONDON NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW PM MARKEZINIS PUTS HEAVY
EMPHASIS ON KEY ROLE TO BE PLAYED BY PARLIAMENT WHICH
IS TO BE CHOSEN NEXT YEAR IN "FAIR" AND "IMPECCABLE"
ELECTIONS. HE DESCRIBES CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM AS OF
SECONDARY IMPORTANCE ONCE NEW PARLIAMENT BECOMES ACTIVE
BUT WARNS THAT "MOST" OF HIS FORMER POLITICAL COLLEAGUES
WILL BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE PROVIDED THEY ARE CAREFUL
NOT TO SEEK "OVERTHROW OF THE POLITICAL SYSTEM AND SOCIAL
ORDER". HE CONTINUES TO OPPOSE HOMEPORTING, THOUGH
SUGGESTING HE MIGHT PURSUE MODIFIED ARRANGEMENTS RATHER
THAN REVERSAL OF THAT DECISION. HE SAYS ANY EVENTUAL
GREECE-TURKEY AGREEMENT ON CYPRUS WILL NOT BE IMPOSED
ON CYPRIOTS BUT LEFT TO FREE DECISION ON THEIR PART.

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HE FAVORS "GOLDEN MEAN" IN DOMESTIC ECONOMIC POLICY AND

CONFIRMS GREEK DESIRE FOR LARGER ROLE IN EEC (LONDON 11874), NOTING POLITICAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THAT ORGANIZATION. END SUMMARY.
END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. INTERVIEW WITH NEW PRIME MINISTER MARKEZINIS BY MARIO MODIANO APPEARS IN TIMES OF OCTOBER 11. FULL TEXT BY POUCH TO DEPT. (NEA/GRK) AND ATHENS. SOME HIGHLIGHTS AS FOLLOWS:
2. ON CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION, MARKEZINIS SAID:
"PEOPLE ATTACH TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE TO THIS. YET GREEK CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY CONTAINS NOT ONE SINGLE INSTANCE OF NORMAL CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION.... THE STRONGER POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY BECOMES, THE BETTER THE CHANCES OF THOSE WHO GENUINELY REPRESENT THE PEOPLE'S WILL IN AN EVENTUAL CONFLICT OF POWER. THAT IS WHY I ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO THE FAIRNESS OF THE ELECTIONS."
3. ON FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS, MARKEZINIS SAID:
"PERSONALLY, I BELIEVE THAT MOST OF THEM SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE, WHATEVER THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE REVOLUTION OR IN THE LAST REFERENDUM. I DO NOT BELIEVE THERE SHOULD BE ANY DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THOSE WHO HAPPENED TO BE ABROAD AND OPPOSED THE REVOLUTION. HOWEVER, THE POLICY OF FORGETTING THE PAST SHOULD NOT BE MISCONSTRUED AS A SIGN OF WEAKNESS. WHAT WOULD BE INTOLERABLE WOULD BE THAT THEY SHOULD GO INTO POLITICS IN ORDER TO OVERTHROW THE POLITICAL SYSTEM AND THE SOCIAL ORDER."
4. ON ECONOMIC POLICY, MARKEZINIS DESCRIBED AS SAYING THAT IT WOULD BE WRONG TO GO TO THE OTHER EXTREME TO CONFRONT INFLATION -- SUCH AS TO POLICE THE ECONOMY, OR SHOW DISREGARD FOR THE RISING NEEDS OF SOCIETY, OR TO REVERSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. "WE NEED A GOLDEN MEAN", HE IS QUOTED AS SAYING... "BECAUSE THE COUNTRY IS NOW HEADING TOWARDS POLITICAL NORMALITY".
5. ON RELATIONS WITH EUROPE, MARKEZINIS SAID: "AS LONG AS IMPECCABLE ELECTIONS ARE HELD AND GREECE HAS

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A PARLIAMENT, I THINK IT WILL BE NO PROBLEM TO RESTORE RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN ORGANIZATIONS TO THE POINT WHERE THEY STOOD BEFORE THE SUSPENSION OF PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT IN GREECE." MARKEZINIS REPORTED AS FEELING GREECE COMMITTED GRAVE ERROR IN UNDERESTIMATING HER ABILITY TO BECOME A FULL MEMBER OF THE EEC. "THEY CONCENTRATED ON THE ECONOMIC NATURE OF THE COMMUNITY AND DISREGARDED ITS EXTRAORDINARY POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE," HE SAID OF HIS PREDECESSORS. EUROPEANS SHOULD GIVE GREECE "A HELPING HAND AFTER THE ELECTION OF THE NEW PARLIAMENT."

6. ON CYPRUS, MARKEZINIS SAID: "I MUST MAKE IT CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT AN EVENTUAL GREECE-TURKEY AGREEMENT -- WHICH, MIND YOU, IS FAR FROM EASY -- DOES NOT MEAN THAT IT WILL BE IMPOSED ON THE CYPRIOTS. THEY WILL BE QUITE FREE TO DECIDE AND ACT ACCORDINGLY".

7. ON HOMEPORTING, MARKEZINIS SAID: "I THINK THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MY OBJECTIONS AND RESERVATIONS ABOUT HOMEPORTING ARE BETTER UNDERSTOOD AS TIME GOES BY." ACCORDING TO THE INTERVIEWER, MARKEZINIS INDICATED THAT HE MIGHT SEEK A REVISION OF THE HOMEPORTING ARRANGEMENTS AND POSSIBLY THE TRANSFER OF THE SHIPS TO OTHER PARTS OF GREECE. (COMMENT: INTERVIEWER HERE SLIPPED INTO ERROR OF TERMING SHIP BERTHS "NAVAL BASES".)

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